



Spotlight on the District

Ron Flowers

Warehouse Worker, Logistics Management

Story and photo by Mark Kane

During the flood of 2001, hundreds of television stations aired video footage of the public and National Guard members sandbagging levees up and down the Mississippi River. The bags didn't tote a Corps castle, but members of the Rock Island District know that many of those sandbags came from the Corps. And at one time or another, those same sandbags made their way through Ron Flowers' hands.

Ron Flowers, warehouse worker, Logistics Management, LeClaire Base, Iowa, and the crew at LeClaire Base, distributed more than 1 ½ million sandbags to assist in the valiant flood-fighting efforts of counties, cities and villages along the shores of the mighty Mississippi River throughout most of this spring's flood.

During his daily ten-hour shifts, Flowers coordinated the distribution of 1,414,600 sandbags, 474 rolls of plastic sheeting, and 57 pumps. He also inspected numerous other pumps that were ready to be loaned to communities in need. An additional 109,000 sandbags, 100 rolls of plastic sheeting, and 4 pumps were dispersed from the District's location in Quincy, Ill.

Flowers received the requests for supplies from the Corps' Flood Area Engineers who walked the levees and assisted communities within the flooded areas. The engineers provided people with expert guidance on construction of sandbag levees, flood-fighting techniques and flood information. A key feature of their duties is to provide communities with flood-fighting supplies as necessary. That's where Flowers and the dedicated workers at LeClaire Base came into the picture.

Ask Flowers how tough the job was, and you'd never know how much work he and the employees at LeClaire Base put into their jobs.

"When you're working with excellent people everything

goes smoothly, these guys had a solution for everything," said Flowers. "It was a well organized effort ... communications were great, inventory was taken care of, and everyone was in a pretty good mood. I really enjoy working with everyone at the base here."

During the flood, Flowers said he got the chance to meet a lot of people from the public.

"I really like meeting different people and being able to help them," said Flowers. "It's pretty good when they truly appreciate what you're doing."

Flowers said he especially likes working for the Corps and has been enjoying his job since he started with the District in 1982.

"I started working for the Corps after talking with my neighbor Mr. Jackson (Earnest Jackson, lockmaster, Lock and Dam 13)," said Flowers. "He let me know about the Corps ... I started working in Accounting and Finance, but I didn't enjoy sitting at a desk, and I started working at the warehouse around 1987."

"He's a 'can do' type of guy," said Mary Strassburger, chief, Logistics Management.

"If you ask him to do it, it's done, you don't have to think twice about him. He's really a 'happy-go-lucky' kind of guy."

Flowers is married and lives in Colona, Ill., with his wife. They have two children and three grandchildren.

He enjoys metal detecting and restoring old cars. Flowers has restored a 1963 Triumph Spitfire, a 1967 Triumph TR4A, and a 1968 Chevy Camaro convertible.

Flowers' advice to anyone reading this article is simple, he doesn't have any.

"I really don't give out much advice," said Flowers. "I think most people do a good job learning for themselves." ■



Ron Flowers, Logistics Management, inventories one of the District's older pumps. Flowers gave out 57 pumps to communities in the District to assist them in fighting the spring flood.

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Tower Times

Contents

4-7

District Plays Crucial Role in Flood Fight

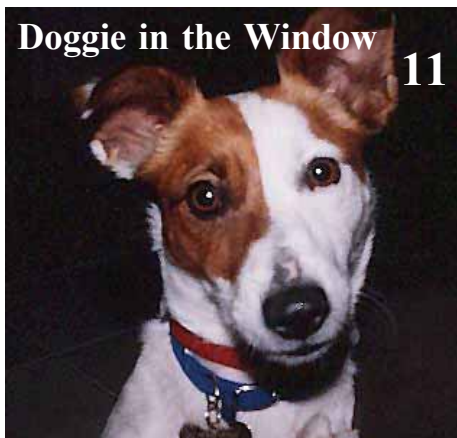


Corps Day 2001 (Insert)



Doggie in the Window

11



On the Cover

Bob Riebe (right), Engineering Division, speaks with Rich Todd (center), Engineering Division, and a City of Davenport representative (left) from atop Davenport's mountainous clay and sandbag levee.

Riebe is the Flood Area Engineer for the Quad-Cities.

Photo by Mark Kane.

